



Derby/Oaks Update

Monday, April 24, 2017

McCracken Breezes Five Furlongs; Asmussen Works Four Kentucky Derby Possibles

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Monday, April 24, 2017) – Whitham Thoroughbreds' **McCracken** turned in his penultimate workout for Kentucky Derby 143 by working five furlongs in 1:00.60 in company on a sunny Monday morning at Churchill Downs.

Also working toward the \$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (G1) on May 6 was a quartet of hopefuls from trainer Steve Asmussen: **Hence** (five furlongs in 1:00), **Local Hero** (five furlongs in 1:00), **Untrapped** (five furlongs in 1:01.60) and **Lookin At Lee** (four furlongs in :51.20).

With regular rider **Brian Hernandez Jr.** aboard, McCracken came on the track at 8:30 during the special training window for Kentucky Derby and Oaks horses.

Spotting his workmate **McCormick**, a 3-year-old maiden, several lengths, McCracken posted fractions of :12, :24.60, :36.40, 1:00.60 and gallop outs of 1:13 for six furlongs and 1:26 for seven and well ahead of McCormick, who completed his work in 1:01. McCracken's move was the sixth fastest of 30 at the distance.

"Everything went great," Hernandez said. "He sat back and didn't go until I asked him. He made up a lot of ground from the eighth pole to the wire."

It was the second work for McCracken since finishing third in the Blue Grass Stakes (GII) at Keeneland on April 8; his first defeat in five races.

"Before, he was like the football player in high school beating up on the high schoolers and then he gets to college where the talent is deeper and he might not be as tough as he thought," Hernandez said. "Now I'm going to start paying attention."

Trainer **Ian Wilkes**, preparing his first Derby starter after serving as the exercise rider for 1990 winner **Unbridled** and assistant to **Carl Nafzger** with **Street Sense** in 2007, was happy with the work.

"It was a good, solid work and he galloped out strong," Wilkes said. "It (the gallop out) shows he had something left in the tank."

Wilkes plans to give McCracken one more work with a date and distance to be determined.

"I am going to enjoy it," Wilkes said of the Derby ride. "Take it one day at a time and don't get in front of the horse. Let him take you there."

HENCE/UNTRAPPED/LOOKIN AT LEE/LOCAL HERO – Trainer **Steve Asmussen**'s contingent of horses breezed Monday morning at Churchill Downs which included **Untrapped** (five furlongs, 1:01.60); **Lookin At Lee** (four furlongs, :51.20); and **Hence** and **Local Hero** breezed in company (five furlongs, 1:00).

Hence (outside) and **Local Hero** (inside) breezed during the Derby and Oaks exclusive training at 8:30 a.m. through splits of :12.20, :23.80, :35.60 and :47.80, before galloping out six furlongs in 1:13 and seven furlongs in 1:26.60.

"Hence and Local Hero put in a great work this morning," Asmussen said. "I'm very comfortable with both horses being here at Churchill. I think the time they spent last year here shows."

Untrapped breezed at 6:40 a.m. through splits of :12.40, :24.60, and :49.20, before galloping out six furlongs in 1:14.60 and seven furlongs in 1:27.60.

"It's nine days off of **Untrapped** and **Lookin At Lee**'s Arkansas Derby, so we're in a different point with both of them," Asmussen said. "Untrapped went five-eighths and galloped good with the blinkers off of him. I thought he was too aggressive and pulled up into a face pace in the Arkansas Derby. His breeze today was beautiful. He's such a gorgeous moving horse."

Lookin At Lee worked during Asmussen's next set at 7:05 a.m. in splits of :13 and :25.80, galloping out five furlongs in 1:04.80.

"He's on the outside looking in," Asmussen said. "He just had an easy half-mile and went about his business."

Hence, winner of the Sunland Derby (GIII), could give owner **Calumet Farm** a record-extending ninth win in the Derby.

"The race appears to be key, since the running of it," Asmussen said. "I think from our perspective the horse has always had a lot of talent and he's putting things together at the right time."

Untrapped, who exits the April 15 Arkansas Derby (GI) with stablemate **Lookin At Lee**, recently took over the 20th spot on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Leaderboard with the defection of **Cloud Computing**. **Lookin At Lee** is on the bubble, needing one defection to make the field.

BATTALION RUNNER/MALAGACY/MASTER PLAN/TAPWRIT – **St. Elias Stable**'s Wood Memorial (GII) runner-up **Battalion Runner** was the first of trainer **Todd Pletcher**'s possible Derby runners to arrive at Churchill Downs, coming in by van Sunday night from Belmont Park.

Arriving from Keeneland shortly before 11 o'clock Monday morning was **Bridlewood Farm**, **Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners** and **Robert LaPenta**'s **Tapwrit**, fifth in the Blue Grass (GII) in his most recent start, and **Sumaya U.S. Stables**' **Malagacy**, fifth in the Arkansas Derby (GI) in his most recent outing.

Also coming from Keeneland was **Al Shaqab Racing** and **WinStar Farm**'s **Master Plan**. Standing 26th on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Leaderboard, **Master Plan** finished third in the UAE Derby (Group II) in his most recent start.

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Scheduled to arrive Tuesday at Churchill Downs for Pletcher are Florida Derby (GI) winner **Always Dreaming**, owned by **Brooklyn Boyz Stables** and **Teresa Viola Racing Stables**, and **Calumet Farm's Patch**, runner-up in the Louisiana Derby (GII).

CLASSIC EMPIRE/STATE OF HONOR – John Oxley's **Classic Empire** and **Conrad Farm's State of Honor** both galloped Monday morning at 6 a.m. for trainer **Mark Casse**.

"Both horses continue to do well," assistant trainer **Norm Casse** said. "Classic Empire did a little more serious gallop today and looks great following the Arkansas Derby."

Jockey **Julien Leparoux** will have the mount for **Classic Empire** while **Jose Lezcano** is slated to ride **State of Honor** in the Kentucky Derby.

Workout plans are in flux for both horses who are stabled in Casse's Barn 36.

GUNNEVERA – **Peacock Racing Stables' Gunnevera** walked the shedrow Monday morning at Churchill Downs. Winner of the Fountain of Youth (GII), **Gunnevera** arrived at Churchill Downs late Saturday night after vanning from South Florida.

Trainer **Antonio Sano** is scheduled to arrive in Louisville Monday and **Gunnevera** will go to the track in the morning.

PRACTICAL JOKE – **Klaravich Stables** and **William Lawrence's Practical Joke**, runner-up in the Blue Grass Stakes (GII) in his most recent start, left Keeneland late Monday morning and arrived at Churchill Downs this afternoon. He is one of 12 horses trainer **Chad Brown** plans to have here through Derby Week.

KENTUCKY OAKS UPDATE

EVER SO CLEVER – **Clearview Stable's Ever So Clever** walked Monday morning following her breeze Sunday for trainer **Steve Asmussen**. The 3-year-old daughter of First Samurai won the April 14 Fantasy (GIII) at Oaklawn Park and extended her record to 8-3-1-1 with \$377,850 in earnings. She's stabled in Barn 38.

FARRELL – **Coffeepot Stables' multiple Grade II winner Farrell** galloped early Monday morning before the renovation break under exercise rider **Antonio Ramos** for trainer **Wayne Catalano**.

The leading point earner on The Road to the Kentucky Oaks, **Farrell** is scheduled to work Wednesday or Thursday depending on the weather according to **Catalano**.

JORDAN'S HENNY – **Erv Woolsey** and **Ralph Kinder's Jordan's Henny** jogged a mile after the renovation break under exercise rider **Edgar Cano**.

Trained by **Mike Tomlinson**, **Jordan's Henny** worked a half-mile on a sloppy track in :50.20 on Saturday and will have one more work Saturday prior to the Oaks. **Tomlinson** said **Joe Rocco** would have the Oaks mount and be aboard for the work.

LOCKDOWN – **Juddmonte Farms' Lockdown**, runner-up in the Gazelle (GII) in her most recent start, galloped after the renovation break under exercise rider **Jo Lawson**.

Trainer **Bill Mott** said **Lockdown** "would probably work tomorrow."

Jose Ortiz will have the mount in the Oaks.

MISS SKY WARRIOR – **Arlene's Sun Star Stable's Miss Sky Warrior**, winner of four consecutive graded stakes, galloped after the renovation break with exercise rider **Aurelio Gomez** aboard for trainer **Kelly Breen**.

Breen is scheduled to return to Churchill Downs on Wednesday. **Paco Lopez** has the Oaks mount.

SALTY – **Gary Barber, Baccari Racing** and **Chester Prince's Salty** trained at 6 a.m. Monday for trainer **Mark Casse**. The Gulfstream Park Oaks (GII) winner galloped easily over the "fast" surface and expects to work this weekend, according to assistant trainer **Norm Casse**. **Salty** is stabled in **Casse's Barn 36**.

VEXATIOUS – **Calumet Farm's Vexatious** jogged a mile under exercise rider **Freddy Quevero** just before 10 o'clock.

DOWN THE STRETCH: Brad Grady's Louisiana Derby (Grade II) winner Girvin was scheduled to work on Monday at Keeneland but instead jogged. Plans are in flux on when the colt will breeze. ... Co-owner **Debi Stull** told Churchill Downs officials Sunday that **It Tiz Well** would not be running in the \$1 million Kentucky Oaks (GI).

WORKOUT VIDEOS

Monday, April 24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uF3Fs4JUYkM>

PAST PERFORMANCES

Brinset.com Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks Past Performances
http://www.brisnet.com/brisnet_promos/DerbyOaks17.pdf

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY LEADERBOARD PRESENTED BY TWINSPIRES.COM

#	Horse	Points	Trainer	NRSE
1	Girvin	150	Joe Sharp	\$849,000
2	Classic Empire	132	Mark Casse	\$2,093,820
3	Gormley	125	John Shirreffs	\$884,000
4	Irap	113	Doug O'Neill	\$760,000
5	Irish War Cry	110	Graham Motion	\$676,660
6	Thunder Snow (Ire)*	100	Saeed bin Suroor	\$1,621,063
7	Always Dreaming	100	Todd Pletcher	\$589,000
8	Gunnevera	84	Antonio Sano	\$1,137,800
9	Practical Joke	74	Chad Brown	\$966,000
10	J Boys Echo	63	Dale Romans	\$305,000
11	State of Honor	62	Mark Casse	\$310,364
12	Tapwrit	54	Todd Pletcher	\$325,570
13	Malagacy	50	Todd Pletcher	\$540,000
14	Hence	50	Steve Asmussen	\$401,129
15	Fast and Accurate**	50	Mike Maker	\$320,712
16	McCraken	40	Ian Wilkes	\$385,048
17	Battle of Midway	40	Jerry Hollendorfer	\$224,000
18	Patch	40	Todd Pletcher	\$200,000
19	Battalion Runner	40	Todd Pletcher	\$140,000
20	Untrapped	34	Steve Asmussen	\$210,000
21	Lookin At Lee	32	Steve Asmussen	\$428,600
22	Sonneteer	30	Keith Desormeaux	\$236,000
23	Royal Mo	30	John Shirreffs	\$213,000
24	Local Hero	30	Steve Asmussen	\$140,000
25	Iliad	20	Doug O'Neill	\$220,000
26	Master Plan	20	Todd Pletcher	\$214,700
27	Petrov	13	Ron Moquett	\$197,857

*Late Triple Crown Nominee

**Owner has indicated that the \$200,000 late supplemental nomination would be paid

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY OAKS LEADERBOARD

#	Horse	Points	Trainer	NRSE
1	Farrell	170	Wayne Catalano	\$573,407
2	Miss Sky Warrior	160	Kelly Breen	\$592,840
3	Ever So Clever	106	Steve Asmussen	\$312,750
4	Sailor's Valentine	100	Eddie Kenneally	\$307,014
5	Paradise Woods	100	Richard Mandella	\$240,000
6	Salty*	100	Mark Casse	\$150,350
7	Abel Tasman	70	Bob Baffert	\$280,000
8	Daddys Lil Darling	60	Kenny McPeck	\$439,240
9	Chanel's Legacy	51	Lynn Chleborad	\$316,667
10	Tequilita	50	Michael Matz	\$227,540
11	Yorkiepool Princess*	50	Ed Barker	\$211,786
12	Lockdown	50	Bill Mott	\$120,000
13	Wicked Lick	49	Brendan Walsh	\$118,428
14	Vexatious	40	Neil Drysdale	\$80,000
15	Jordan's Henny	40	Mike Tomlinson	\$66,410
16	Someday Soon	20	Will VanMeter	\$52,667
17	Mopotism	16	Doug O'Neill	\$145,000
18	Shane's Girlfriend	12	Doug O'Neill	\$268,000
19	Torrent	12	Ron Moquett	\$52,500
20	Summer Luck	11	Mark Casse	\$52,700

KENTUCKY DERBY JOCKEYS

Horse	Jockey	Derby Record
Girvin	Mike Smith	22-1-4-1
Classic Empire	Julien Leparoux	9-0-0-0
Gormley	Victor Espinoza	8-3-0-1
Irap	Mario Gutierrez	2-2-0-0
Irish War Cry	Rajiv Maragh	4-0-0-1
Thunder Snow (Ire)	Christophe Soumillon	1-0-0-0
Always Dreaming	John Velazquez	18-1-1-0
Gunnevera	Javier Castellano	10-0-0-0
Practical Joke	Joel Rosario	7-1-0-0
J Boys Echo	TBA	
State of Honor	Jose Lezcano	4-0-1-0
Tapwrit	Jose Ortiz	2-0-0-0
Malagacy	TBA	
Hence	Florent Geroux	1-0-0-1
Fast and Accurate	TBA	
McCraken	Brian Hernandez Jr.	1-0-0-0
Battle of Midway	Flavien Prat	
Patch	TBA	
Battalion Runner	TBA	
Untrapped	TBA	

BARN LIST – KENTUCKY DERBY

Horse	Trainer	Barn
Hence	Steve Asmussen	38
Local Hero	Steve Asmussen	38
Lookin At lee	Steve Asmussen	38
Untrapped	Steve Asmussen	38
Practical Joke	Chad Brown	42
Classic Empire	Mark Casse	36
State of Honor	Mark Casse	36
Fast and Accurate	Mike Maker	K (Trackside)
Battalion Runner	Todd Pletcher	40
Malagacy	Todd Pletcher	40
Tapwrit	Todd Pletcher	40
J Boys Echo	Dale Romans	4
Gunnevera	Antonio Sano	41
McCraken	Ian Wilkes	26

BARN LIST – KENTUCKY OAKS

Horse	Trainer	Barn
Ever So Clever	Steve Asmussen	38
Miss Sky Warrior	Kelly Breen	43
Salty	Mark Casse	36
Farrell	Wayne Catalano	30
Vexatious	Neil Drysdale	43
Jordan's Henny	Mike Tomlinson	1

FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Tuesday, April 24 – Florida

Horse	Trainer	Date	Barn
Good Samaritan	Bill Mott	Tuesday, April 24	18 or 19
El Kabeir	Bill Mott	Tuesday, April 24	18 or 19
Carina Mia	Bill Mott	Tuesday, April 24	18 or 19
Always Dreaming	Todd Pletcher	Tuesday, April 24	40
Eskenformoney	Todd Pletcher	Tuesday, April 24	40
Ghalia	Todd Pletcher	Tuesday, April 24	40
Patch	Todd Pletcher	Tuesday, April 24	40
Syndergaard	Todd Pletcher	Tuesday, April 24	40

Saturday, April 29 – California

Horse	Trainer	Date	Barn
Sonneteer	Keith Desormeaux	Saturday, April 29	TBA
Battle of Midway	Jerry Hollendorfer	Saturday, April 29	TBA
Finest City	Ian Kruljac	Saturday, April 29	TBA
Why Two	Mike Machowsky	Saturday, April 29	TBA

Monday, May 1 – California

Horse	Trainer	Date	Barn
Masochistic	Ron Ellis	Monday, May 1	TBA
Paradise Woods	Richard Mandella	Monday, May 1	TBA
Bal A Bali	Richard Mandella	Monday, May 1	TBA
Solid Wager	Pete Miller	Monday, May 1	TBA
Conquest Farenheit	Pete Miller	Monday, May 1	TBA
Richards Boy	Pete Miller	Monday, May 1	TBA
Storm the Hill	Pete Miller	Monday, May 1	TBA
Mopotism	Doug O'Neill	Monday, May 1	TBA
Iliad	Doug O'Neill	Monday, May 1	TBA
Denmans Call	Doug O'Neill	Monday, May 1	TBA
What What What	Doug O'Neill	Monday, May 1	TBA
Gormley	John Shirreffs	Monday, May 1	TBA
Royal Mo	John Shirreffs	Monday, May 1	TBA
Union Strike	Mick Ruis	Monday, May 1	TBA

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